

COMMUNICATIONS  
FROM CHARTER  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Communications received regarding recommendations to the City Council on Monday February 17, 2014 at 11:23 A.M.

Earlier, last fall, the Charter Committee agreed to make recommendations to the City Council rather than include them in the Charter. One was to recommend the formation of a Citizens Academy to reach out to the public. Another was, if I recall correctly was to recommend a certain percentage of a budget surplus go to the reserves.

I would like to add two more to that list. When the Pension Committee Chair reported to the Council he did not include on his list of recommendations two issues mentioned to but not thoroughly discussed by the Committee. Those were the use of certificates of participation and the adoption of a private pension plan for new hires as two other means to deal with the unfunded liability. Both of those are valid financial tools but were not mentioned to the Council by the Pension Chair because as he put it to our Committee he did not believe in CoP's. His personal beliefs should not have restricted full disclosure of options to the Council. Here is another instance where openness is of value.